

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 /016 W

----- 114837

R 260445Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5414

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 15819

DEPARTMENT FOR CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS: CALCUTTA

REF: STATE 247062; CALCUTTA 2405 (NOTAL)

1. REPEATED BELOW IS MESSAGE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FROM AMCONGEN
CALCUTTA:

"(A) WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP, CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR
FEB. 6-16 IS BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY HERE. EXPECTATION IS THAT EIGHTY
FOREIGN TEAMS WILL COMPETE. A NEW STADIUM IS BEING CONSTRUCTED
WHICH WILL SEAT 10,000."

"(B) SENIOR IAS OFFICER, J.C. TALUKDAR, WHO IS CURRNTLY CHAIRMAN,
CALCUTTA IMPROVEMENT TRUST AND MEMBER, WEST BENGAL BOARD OF
REVENUE HAS RECENTLY BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF OVERALL SUPERVISION
OF PREPARATIONS AND HAS ALREADY INFORMALLY SOUGHT OUR ADVICE
ON HOUSING, ENTERTAINMENT, DIETS, ETC."

"(C) CRAZY AS IT MAY SOUND, VARIOUS IMPORTANT POLITICAL TYPES,
STARTING WITH CHIEF MINISTER RAY, WANT THIS TO BE A BIG SUCCESS.
A CIRCUS FOR THE STARVING MASSES, AS IT WERE. TO THE EXTENT WE
HAVE INFLUENCE WHICH CAN BE BROUGHT TO BEAR, I.E., SUPPORTING
DEPARTMENT'S PLAN TO SEND TEAM AROUND FOR EXHIBITION MATCHES
(AND THEREBY, HOPEFULLY, ASSURING THEY WILL BE HERE FOR THE
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CHAMPIONSHIP) WE SHOULD DO SO, WE THINK."

"(D) NOTE: HOWEVER, IT SHOULD ALSO BE KEPT IN MIND THAT THIS CHAMPIONSHIP COULD TURN INTO AN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL FIASCO ON THE LINE OF SOME OTHER RECENT SPORTS EVENTS. AMONG THE EIGHTY INVITEES ARE ISRAEL, THE PALESTINIANS, NORTH/SOUTH KOREAS AND VIETNAM; WE'RE NOT SURE ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA. WE HAVE HEARD OF NO PLANS YET, BUT IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF LEFTIST PARTIES ORGANIZED ANTI-ISRAELI (AND OTHER) DEMONSTRATIONS. BE THAT AS IT MAY, WE STICK WITH PARA THREE (C) RECOMMENDATION."

2. MISSION CONCURS IN CONGEN'S ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION AND ENDORSES ITS SUPPORT FOR DEPARTMENT'S EFFORT TO SEND TEAM ON EXHIBITION TOUR THUS MAKING PARTICIPATION IN CHAMPIONSHIP POSSIBLE.

3. PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.
MOYNIHAN

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